

**PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
January 20, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: The January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Kevin McCurrie at the Palos Fire Protection District, Station 1, 8815 W. 123rd Street, Palos Park, Illinois.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Kevin McCurrie led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: On the call of the roll, Trustees Kevin McCurrie, Gene Adams, Richard Nogal, Todd Thielmann, and Ed Verdino responded as present.

OTHER PRESENT: Deputy Chief Gabriele, Attorney Thomas Courtney, Recording Secretary Dana Fischl, and fire station personnel are also in attendance. Bradley O'Sullivan from Governmental Accounting, Inc., is not yet in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the open session minutes of the December 16, 2025, regular meeting, as written. Trustee Thielmann made the motion, to which Trustee Verdino seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the open session minutes of the January 14, 2026, special meeting as written. Trustee Adams made that motion, and Trustee Nogal seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the closed session minutes of the January 14, 2026, special meeting as written. Trustee Verdino made that motion, and Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Trustee McCurrie took this opportunity to announce his retirement from the board of trustees. His last official meeting will be on February 17, 2026.

A brief discussion ensued about rescheduling the March 17th Meeting.

At 7:05 pm, Bradley O'Sullivan is now in attendance via speaker phone.

TREASURER REPORT: Bradley O'Sullivan presented the Treasurer's Report and did an excellent job of explaining the District's Financial Analysis for the 8 months ending December 31, 2025, and the Summary of Revenue and Expenditures.

Revenue Highlights indicate that we are 67% through the budget year and 28.5% of the total budget.

- Collected \$0 or 0% of the budget (No Major Installment(s) from Cook County).
- Collected \$755,412 or 66.4% of the budget in Ambulance Fees.
- Collected \$17,086 or 42.7% of the budget in Personal Property Replacement Taxes.
- Collected \$187,899 in interest, or 113.9% of the budget.
- Collected \$32,755 or 131.0% of the budget in Fire Recovery

Expenditure Highlights convey that we are at 60.5% of the total budget (excluding transfers).

- Operating expenditure is \$5,386,035 or 61.2% of the budget.
- We have made 8 of 12 Health Insurance Payments.
- Paid Personnel is \$3,715,625 or 68.5 % of the budget.
- Debt Service & Capital Expenditures: \$129,123 or 30.9% of the budget.
 - St 2 Roof and Skylights = \$91,400
 - Station Alerting Installation = \$23,145
 - Ambulance 10 Loan=\$10,000 (9 of 10)

President McCurrie stated that the district had \$367,361.91 in payroll and \$152,023.61 in accounts payable. President McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Verdino seconded. The motion was carried by a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

CHIEF REPORT:

- The district responded to a total of 282 calls in December, bringing the total number of calls for 2025 to 3,533 for our district. This was a record-breaking year compared to 2024, with 3,443 calls. We continue to see an increase in calls every day and hope to see the same increase in call volume each year.
- We continue to see a delay in tax money and recently reviewed a potential distribution schedule from Cook County. It shows the final payment should be distributed by February 5, 2026.
- On January 5th we had a firefighter resign, which has now created a vacancy. The current eligibility is exhausted. Every candidate who took a one-time pass, declined the offer.
- The testing agency we use, IOSolutions, has recently partnered with another company and has completely changed its testing model. It is now

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a subscription model with a rolling list. There are no departments using this method as of today. Another company, National Testing Network, which we have used in the past, will better meet our needs and comply with the state statute for full-time testing. The ad went live on January 15th and will be open for 2 months.

- We had our Lieutenant assessment center and oral interviews on January 15th and 16th. All candidates did very well. The written exam is the final step, which will take place on February 7th. When the Lieutenant process is complete, we will roll directly into Battalion Chief testing.
- Our newest full-time hire, David Vodnik, who is only a paramedic, started the Romeoville Fire Academy on January 5th. He is expected to complete the Academy on March 6th.
- I want to acknowledge the leadership of our former Fire Chief, Chris Courtney, and the mentorship he has given me. His leadership was crucial to the department's success and growth. I am grateful to Chief Courtney and this board for their support and for their trust in me as the next Fire Chief. I am committed to continuing to make Palos Fire a great department and ensuring we are the best that we can be. This great responsibility is not taken lightly, and I hope to exceed the board's expectations by performing my duties as Fire Chief. Thank you for this opportunity.

A brief discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Approve the appointment of Michael Gabriele to Fire Chief. This will be discussed in Closed Session.
- b. Re-Appointment of Commissioner James Staszczuk as Fire District Commissioner.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to approve the re-appointment of James Staszczuk as Fire District Commissioner. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Verdino seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

- c. Discussion and possible board action of filling the position of Deputy Fire Chief. This will be discussed in Closed Session.
- d. Discussion and possible board action of Cook County Dispatch IGA.

Discussion ensued. Martin Bennett, Director of Cook County Dispatch, will attend the February 17th meeting to discuss this further.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to amend the agenda to change the March 17th meeting. Trustee Thielmann made that motion, and Trustee Nogal seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to change the March 17th meeting to March 10th. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters at 7:41 pm. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Verdino seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Back in open session at 8:20 pm.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to appoint Michael Gabriele as the Palos Fire Protection District Fire Chief and to approve his contract as written, effective January 16th, 2026.

Trustee Adams made that motion, and Trustee Verdino seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Trustee McCurrie asked for a motion to appoint William Stukel as the Palos Fire Protection District Deputy Chief and approve his contract as written, effective February 1st, 2026. Trustee

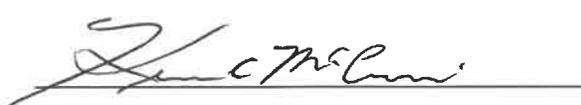
The Board called William Stukel to congratulate him.

Trustee Nogal moved to amend the agenda to allow for the bank resolution. Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, that motion passed.

Trustee Nogal moved to authorize Fire Chief Michael Gabriele to sign the appropriate bank resolutions and documents. Trustee Verdino seconded that motion. On a roll call vote, that motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to bring before the Board, President McCurrie moved to adjourn the open session at 8:29 pm. Trustee Nogal made that motion, and Trustee Thielmann seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.

The next regular meeting of the Palos Fire Protection Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, February 17th, at 7:00 p.m.

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